

Message Text

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TAGSC PFOR EEC DA

SUBJECT: DENMARK GETS TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE SOME ORDER OUT OF A DIFFICULT SITUATION AS WELL AS TO SOOTHE FEELINGS WITHIN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IVAR NORGAARD HAVE AGREED THAT THEY WILL INTERCHANGE RESPONSIBILITIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AS EXPLAINED TO THE DCM BY ACTING POLITICAL BIERING THIS MEANS THAT THEY WILL ALTERNATE FOR EACH OTHER AT HOME. THUS WHEN ANDERSEN IS AWAY NORGAARD WILL SUPERVISE BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SIDES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND VICE VERSA. THEY WILL ALSO REPLACE EACH OTHER ABOARD WHEN PRACTICAL. THIS MEANS THAT

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NORGAARD WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AS WELL AS

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WITH THE OTHER EC FOREIGN MINISTERS
BEING THOUGHT IT WAS AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY AS ONE
PAPER HAS THAT THE ARRANGMENT GIVE DENMARK A
"MINISTER FOR EUROPE" (NORGAARD) AND A "MINISTER FOR
OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ANDERSEN) ANDERSEN WILL HE
SAID PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS
IF THEY ARE EXPRESSLY DEVOTED TO POLITICAL ISSUES. CONSEQUENTLY
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW ARRANGMENT ANDERSEN
WILL DISCUSS COMMON MARKET AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES WHEN
HE MEETS WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN BONN MARCH 7

2. IN A COMMENT TO THE PRESS, NORGAARD SAID THAT DENMARK
CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN
MINISTER CANNOT TAKE DECISIONS ON QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY.
IT CAN "CONSULT" ON FOREIGN POLICY BUT "DECISION" ARE TO
BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL ONLY ON MATTER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE NEW DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES
BETWEEN ANDERSEN AND HIMSELF WOULD BE IN EFFECT AT NEXT
WEEK'S MEETING OF THE EC HEADS OF GOVT IN DUBLIN. (IN
SPITE OF NORGAARD'S RATIONALE, BOTH MINISTERS ARE GOING TO
DUBLIN)

3. COMMENT: THIS IS A WAY OF TRYING TO SOLVE WHAT HAS
BECOME AN AWKWARD PROBLEM FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.
ANDERSEN AND NORGAARD HAD THE SAME PORTFOLIOS IN THE
PREVIOUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVT BUT IT WAS CLEAR
THAT ANDERSEN WAS PRIMUS INTER PARES AND THAT NORGAARD
CHAFED UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT. WHEN RECENTLY IN OPPOSITION
THEREFORE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PROPOSED THAT DENMARK
HAVE BOTH A MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS LARGELY BECAUSE NEITHER
ANDERSEN NOR NORGAARD WOULD CONCERNED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
ITSELF TO THE OTHER. SINCE THE DANES DO NOT HAVE A "STATE
SECRETARY" SYSTEM THEY HAVE OPTED FOR THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT
ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE MINISTRY
THERE IS MUCH SATISFACTION ON THE POLITICAL SIDE THE FEELING
IS MORE ONE OF RESIGNATION. WHETHER THE ARRANGEMENT WILL
WORK OUT ANY BETTER THAN IT DID IN THE NETHERLANDS WITH THE
TANDEM OF MRSSRS BEYEN AND LUNS IN THE FIFTIES REMAINS
TO BE SEEN. AS ONE EXPERIENCED OBSERVER PUT IT "THERE
CAN BE ONLY ONE TIGER IN THE FOREST".

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